

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee Meeting

October 8, 2014, 4:00-5:30

Town Room, Amherst Town Hall

Note: This meeting focused on preparation of the “Where we are now” portion of the Solid Waste Master Plan.

Tasks to achieve prior to our next meeting:

- Sue M. and Laurel will turn notes into narrative.
- Laurel will add suggestions for additional fall dates
- Susan and Steve will analyze recent data as possible, and be prepared to present to the Committee
- Craig will contact Guilford to get info regarding private haulers
- Arnie will contact Guilford regarding getting information concerning SWM in municipal buildings (including the library) – library business manager and Ron Bohonowitz

Need to explain “where we are now” with regards to Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Amherst: an overview of what we have now, services funded through SWEF, what resources fuel the SWEF, expenses, etc.

- How many transfer station stickers sold annually
- Estimate number of households using curbside pick-up. Explain multiple haulers & residential routes.
- Can we determine the volume of refuse (solid waste/recycle-ables/compost) picked up curbside?
- SWEF sources of income
- Transfer station funded by SWEF
- Town reg to require hauler pick up but at this time with TS open residents also have option to purchase stickers for TS access.
- Solid waste, recycling, and composting at schools picked up (describe program and variation between schools), schools pay by the ton for solid waste. From that payment SWEF pays for disposal of composting.
- Styrofoam ban
- Public municipal waste – municipal buildings (handled in a variety of different ways), outside spaces (business district, common, parks, street sweeping, construction/landscaping, asphalt, concrete)

Hours of Transfer Station operation, and what services are offered including:

- Business/commercial stickers available
- Pelham and Shutesbury residents may buy stickers
- Composting at TS – pay per bag and need for sticker
- Christmas tree collection
- Composting at TS – pay per bag and need for sticker
- Brush/grass/leaf disposal
- Electronics recycling
- Fluorescent light bulbs

Functions of the Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator:

- Web information
- Public education & outreach to schools
- Grant writing

- Keeping abreast of local, state, national and international trends in SW management
- Keeping abreast of regulations
- Production of Earth Day insert for local newspapers
- Liaison to RRMCC
- Coordinate with event managers using town common regarding waste disposal
- Creation of flyers, advertising, brochures related to waste management to use for publicity purposes
- Data analysis of various SWM procedures
- Updating Amherst SWM history (previous project)
- Coordinate rain barrel and composter sales program
- Coordinate hazardous waste drop-off day
- Coordinate sharps collection program with Health Dept.
- Coordinate leaf distribution (reduces collection & processing expenses)

RRMCC role(s) Include list (partial below)

- Provide support & recommendations to Town of Amherst
- Sustainability Festival booth (public education)
- Support Taste of Amherst organizing committee re: waste issues

Fixed waste related costs:

- Salaries/retirement/benefits
- Electricity
- Office supplies
- Machinery
- Gasoline
- Landfill monitoring
- Equipment maintenance

Challenges:

- We don't have easily accessed household waste data because we are a subscription service community
- Data not readily available, so data-driven decisions are difficult/impossible
- Poor recycling participation at large apartment complexes and many multi-family houses
- High sticker cost, because fixed costs for all solid waste services in town are paid for by stickers

Possibility to open our transfer station to other communities (would generate new revenue)

Possibility to create a day-use fee